

TOWN OF DURHAM

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

LAURA L. FRANCIS



Testimony

Laura Francis

First Selectman

Town of Durham

Before the Finance Committee

March 9, 2015

SB-946, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE REVENUE ITEMS IN THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Section 26 of SB-946, which increases the municipal share of the Resident State Trooper program to 100% from 70%.

Durham relies on the Resident State Trooper program to provide public safety coverage in our community. We view the relationship we have developed with our trooper and the leadership at Troop F as the most effective way to provide public safety for our residents and businesses.

The Resident State Trooper program is a unique and valued partnership with the State Police that helps us create and maintain safer communities. As the state considers ways of encouraging towns to form regional partnerships to deliver services more efficiently, we must remember that the Resident State Trooper program is a perfect example of how the state and towns can work together in partnership to provide critical services.

Increasing the cost of the Resident State Trooper program has a lot of towns discussing whether to abandon the program or cut back on troopers. If towns are forced to abandon the trooper program, more troopers will be returned to the barracks at a 100% cost to the state rather than the current 30% cost. Therefore, increasing the municipal portion of the costs associated with the resident trooper program may not produce any cost savings to the state and will certainly undermine public safety.

Thank you for your consideration.